

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 18 SEPTEMBER 2001

CHILDREN'S CHANGE FUND ALLOCATION FOR TACKLING DRUGS AND ASSOCIATED DRUG REHABILITATION INITIATIVES

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise elected members of and to seek their approval for proposals to develop a range of initiatives to tackle the problems of drug misuse utilising the Children's Change Fund allocation for tackling drugs and existing resources from within the Social Work budget.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 People can experience addiction or 'dependency' problems with alcohol, drugs, solvents/volatile substances, smoking and gambling.
- 2.2 As well as the effects (both social and health related) to the individual that can occur as a result of addiction problems, there is also a significant impact on family, carers and the community at large. Addiction can be a significant factor in marital breakdown, homelessness, ability to sustain employment, financial difficulties (poverty) and crime against both individuals and property.
- 2.3 Drug misuse has a significant impact on the populace of East Ayrshire and this is reflected in the impact upon existing service provision.
- 2.4 The Scottish Executive announced in November 2000 that £100m funding within Scotland over a three year period would be made available to tackle drug misuse, with the resources being made available through a range of funding streams.
- 2.5 This paper details a range of proposals which capitalise on the opportunities for joint working which exist within the Department of Educational and Social Services and enhance the capacity of the Council to tackle drug misuse using a proactive approach.

3. EXISTING SERVICE PROVISION

3.1 The Educational and Social Services Department provides a range of services directly and indirectly to Individuals as follows:

- Children and Families Fieldwork – Assessment and Care Management
- Community Care – Assessment and Care Management
- Criminal Justice Services – Assessment and Care Management within the context of the Criminal Justice System, supervision of probation orders and community service orders.
- Specialist information, support, counselling and advice services to people who misuse drugs are provided on behalf of the Council by the Bridge Project from bases in Kilmarnock and Cumnock.

(The Bridge Project also works in partnership with Health in the provision of supervised methadone maintenance and substitute prescribing programmes).

- Drug education within schools

4. IMPACT OF DRUG MISUSE ON EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

4.1 Schools are increasingly faced with the need to manage drug related issues and incidents.

4.2 The report 'Changing the Future – Social Work Services for the 21st Century' published by the Scottish Executive in May 2001 acknowledged the extent of the problem of drug misuse amongst Children and Young People in East Ayrshire, stating that:

Drug abuse is a significant issue, especially in North Kilmarnock and exerts a continuing and increasing demand on services. The number of young people with drug and alcohol related problems are growing. Young people are coming into contact with drug services at an earlier age...

4.3 All sections of Social Work Services across the Authority are experiencing pressure as a result of drug misuse which manifests itself in the following ways:

- I. An increasing proportion of children who are on the Child Protection Register as a result of drug misuse problems within their family setting

- II. An increasing proportion of children who are 'looked after' in either residential or foster care settings are in that position as a result of drug misuse problems within their family situation
- III. Drugs are a factor in a significant number of referrals to Children's Hearings
- IV. A significant proportion of young people receiving services from the Throughcare team need assistance as a result of drug misuse problems
- V. A significant proportion of those receiving services from or who are the subject of reports for the courts by the Criminal Justice Team experience drug misuse problems
- VI. East Ayrshire Council provides Social Work services within Bowhouse Prison via the Criminal Justice Team. During 2000, 13 residents in the Ayrshire and Arran Health Board area died as a result of drug misuse- related overdose. Of these 23% died within one week of release from prison.
- VII. Significant numbers of adults with mental health problems who also have drug misuse problems.

5. CHILDREN'S CHANGE FUND – TACKLING DRUGS ALLOCATION

- 5.1 In February 2001, local authorities were informed of indicative allocations being made via the Children's Change Fund which would be ring fenced for tackling drug misuse. The allocations would be subject to a procedure requiring local authorities to submit proposals for analysis and approval by the Scottish Executive before funding would be released.
- 5.2 East Ayrshire was provisionally allocated £113,000 for financial year 2001-02 rising to £170,000 in 2002-03 and £228,000 in 2003-04 to address drug misuse issues affecting children and young people.
- 5.3 Proposals for utilising the additional resources required to be developed in partnership with appropriate local agencies and approved by the local Drug Action Team.
- 5.4 The Scottish Executive identified the following priorities for allocation of Children's Change Fund monies:
 - Prevention and treatment facilities for under 16s

- Combating drugs misuse by persistent young offenders (appearing before childrens' hearings or the courts)
- Drug education and treatment for young people looked after by local authorities (at or away from home);
- Services for children and young people of drug abusing parents

5.5 Using the Children's Change fund indicative allocation for 2001 – 02 it is proposed:

- that three specialist posts be created to address the priorities identified by the Scottish Executive which reflect the East Ayrshire dimension.
- to purchase a range of training and curricular equipment and materials.
- to match fund a bid to the Lloyds TSB Foundation.

5.6 The proposed posts would be complemented by the development of substance misuse worker posts within the Children and Families Fieldwork Service Unit (see Section 6 below).

5.7 The proposals detailed were approved by Ayrshire and Arran Alcohol and Drug Action Team (ADAT) and submitted to the Scottish Executive for consideration.

5.8 The Scottish Executive indicated in a letter to the Council on 29th August 2001 that East Ayrshire's proposals had been agreed in principle and that funding would be released to the Council in due course.

5.9 Further proposals detailing plans for full utilisation of the indicative allocations for 2002 – 03 and 2003 – 04 will be submitted to the Scottish Executive prior to 30th October 2001.

5.10 **Proposal 1 - Appointment of Drugs Officer**

5.10.1 The post holder will work with secondary schools, units and centres with secondary age pupils and agencies working with non attending pupils to provide professional support and expertise and to develop local strategies for addressing the issue of drug misuse amongst secondary age pupils.

5.11 **Proposal 2 - Appointment of School Drug Education Adviser**

5.11.1 The post holder will be responsible for ensuring a co-ordinated approach to drug education within schools and for maintaining close liaison with other agencies such as Police and Addiction Services (Primary Care NHS

Trust), Health Promotion and the Ayrshire Addiction Training Forum in relation to the provision and development of drug education.

5.12 Proposal 3 - Appointment of Parental Drug Misuse Officer

5.12.1 The postholder will lead on the development and delivery of services to children whose parents/carers misuse drugs, recognising the impact upon service provision of this issue (as identified in section 4.3) and reflected in the number of children on the Child Protection Register.

5.13 Proposal 4 - Lloyds TSB Foundation (match funding)

5.13.1 The Alcohol and Drug Action Team has been invited to resubmit its proposal to Lloyds TSB Foundation for funding a range of initiatives in Ayrshire. The East Ayrshire element of the proposal is for the development of a post attached to the East Ayrshire Carers Centre (Young Carers Project) for the provision of services to identified young people whose parents misuse drugs. Feedback from Lloyds TSB indicated that the previous bid failed in the case of the East Ayrshire element primarily due to a lack of match funding at the time of making the bid. The conditions of the Lloyds TSB fund identify the Children's Change Fund as an appropriate source of match funding.

5.13.2 East Ayrshire Carers Centre (core funded by East Ayrshire Council and Ayrshire and Arran Health Board) provides information advice and support to carers. The Centre has developed a Young Carers Initiative, which is now the second largest in Scotland. The Initiative is currently supported by funding from the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnership in the South of the Authority and the Lloyds TSB Foundation in the north of the Authority.

5.13.3 The Initiative has identified that a significant proportion of its user group is from families in which parents or siblings use drugs. As a consequence this group of individuals is at an increased risk of developing problem substance misuse.

5.13.4 This proposal aims to enhance the existing service provided by the young carers group through the employment of a dedicated worker to provide 1:1 and groupwork support to identified individuals. The Carers Centre would link with the Parental Drug Misuse Officer in the implementation of the proposal.

5.14 Proposal 5 - Training/curricular materials

5.14.1 It is proposed to use the Children's Change Fund in year 1. to facilitate the purchase of a range of curricular materials for schools and training for community and voluntary groups and appropriate groupings of staff and

individuals. Staff such as teachers, foster carers and children's home staff who have direct working contact with children and young people would be the first priority to receive training.

- 5.14.2 It is intended to provide drug awareness training to a range of staff including guidance teachers from each of the 9 secondary schools.
- 5.14.3 Less intense one-day training will be offered to chaplains, auxiliaries and janitors from all school sectors.
- 5.14.4 Training will be developed in conjunction with the Ayrshire Addiction Training Forum and purchased from outside providers where appropriate.
- 5.14.5 Modern approved reliable curricular materials e.g. 'Whats the Score' will be purchased for all primary and secondary schools.
- 5.14.6 Drug awareness training will be provided to priority selected groups and individuals such as foster carers and residential staff.

6. DRUG REHABILITATION

6.1 In addition to the proposals outlined in Section 5, it is proposed to fund from the Social work budget two further initiatives, namely:

- 1) Development of specialist drug misuse worker posts;
- 2) Increased funding to the Bridge Project to implement recommendations from the recently conducted reviews of the Bridge Project and of Drug Outreach Work.

6.2 Proposal 1 - Development of dedicated Drug Misuse Worker Posts

- 6.2.1 Comprising 5 officers on a QSW or RMN G nursing grade and located within the Children and Families Fieldwork Service Unit, these posts would allow for the provision of a dedicated assessment and care management service to individuals with drug misuse problems.
- 6.2.2 The post holders would work in partnership with colleagues in the Bridge Project, the Health Service, educational establishments and employers to ensure that individuals receive appropriate support and rehabilitative opportunities.

Full Year Cost: £140,000 est.

6.3 Proposal 2 – Implementation of Bridge Review and Drug Outreach Review

6.3.1 East Ayrshire Council has a lengthy track record of positive partnership working with the Bridge Project which is contracted to provide specialist drug information, advice, counselling and support services to the Council.

6.3.2 It is proposed to increase the East Ayrshire contribution to Bridge Project to facilitate implementation of recently conducted reviews of the Bridge Project and Drug Outreach Work.

6.3.3 The increased contribution allows modernisation of the organisational structure of the Bridge Project to provide an enhanced and more effective and focused service within East Ayrshire.

Full Year Cost: To be determined (up to a maximum of £21,000, subject to ongoing negotiations)

6.4 These proposals have been approved in principle by Ayrshire and Arran Alcohol and Drug Action Team (ADAT).

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.2 The Scottish Executive will release the £113,000 Children's Change Fund allocation to the Council within the next few weeks.

8.1 The proposals in relation to drug rehabilitation are being developed from within the Social Work budget.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Detailed proposals for the posts to be funded will be developed and presented to appropriate Council Committees.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that elected members:

- (i) endorse the strategy for tackling drugs and associated drug rehabilitation initiatives outlined in the report and;

- (ii) refer the personnel implications to the Personnel and Property Sub Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration;
- (iii) refer the report to the Education Committee, for its interest; and
- (iv) otherwise, note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
4th September 2001
Enc (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter from Scottish Executive: *Expanding Drug Rehabilitation Services* (17th January 2001).
2. Letter from Scottish Executive: *Children's Fund: New Resources to Tackle Drug Misuse by (or affecting) Children and Young People* (5th February 2001).
3. Letter from Scottish Executive : *Children's Change Fund: New Resources to Tackle Drug Misuse by (or affecting) Children and Young People* (29th August 2001)
4. *Changing for the Future – Social Work Services for the 21st Century*; Scottish Executive (May 2001).

Elected members wishing further information on this report should contact Stephen Moore, Head of Social Work, Civic Centre South, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, Telephone 01563 576917; or Andy Macdonald, Service Unit Manager (Quality and Planning), Civic Centre South, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, Telephone: 01563 576991.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: STEPHEN MOORE, HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK

AGENDA